Dear Jim, 9/22/85

Late this afternoon Herny Hurt phoned again and we spoke for a long time. He began almost speechless in what amounts to surprise that despite the disgareements between us I still undertake to help and inform him and I believe his expression of appreciation was quite sincere. He wanted to know if I'd finished going over the Nosenko release and I updated him as fully as recollection permits, with explanatory detail from my pprior knowledge. I think there is nothing of significance that I observed that I did not tell him. He kept saying that it is extraordinary. And here, too, I think he was quite genuine.

After some time I asked him if I'd ever told him what I'd planned to let him have if he wanted it to promote his book and he said I hadn't. So, in confidence, I told him the complete story of Oswald and his unrecorded security clearances, with sources and offered to let him see it. I told him what documentation I have, have I was put on to it and what I did when Freeman's book was available. I have all of that in a separate file and told him so.

As soon as I phoned Sissi she phoned Henry and before he phoned me not long thereafter that day they had already ordered copies from the FBI. Henry seems to expect them within two weeks and he said he'd phone me after he reads the records.

What I stayed away from is what this can mean to his book. He may or may not see it. And believe it or not, those so-called professionals with that large and well-financed staff working on the Epsteinkery never tumbled to the fact that Oswald was part of Operation Strongback and had his high security clearance. And this, of course, is what happens if you begin with preconceptions and a point of view to argue for political reasons.

Henry agrees that merely reporting the facts without drawing any conclusions can make one of the more important stories of our day, but I do not expect him or the Readers Digest to want to do that.

He seemed impressed when I told him that the CIA began to undermine Nosenko from the outset with one phony reason that was replaced with another when that one expired and that at no point in what the FBI disclosed to me did the CIA or it even suggest that Nosenko was dispatched as a disinformation agent to mislead the U.S. government with regard to the JFK assassination. He seemed also not to have known that the abrupt change in how the CIA was treating Nosenko coincides in date with the CIA's receipt of the FBI's reporting that Nosenko said that the KGB suspected that Oswald was an American agent in pelce, a sleeper. Although the FBI told the CIA it wanted further access to Nosenko, from these records, from that same time on the FBI was precluded from seeing Nosenko again.

I'll be going over a selection of these records soon, after I'll make the copies I've indicated of some and I'll probably write you further about them then. I've not yet read the Sub A part, which is most of it. After I go over these selections I'll wrote the FBI a letter I anticipate it will not like. Or do anything about. There is not a single one, by the way, that was sent to Dallas or New Orleans and there is not a single reference to Fedora. So much for the so-called search!

Best,